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ABSTRACT

This issue of "Loblolly Magazine" is dedicated to Sybil Scott, born in 1910 and still going at the age of 85. She shares some interesting tales of what it was like growing up in the '10's and '20's in Texas, including her school years. She remembers, very vividly, her childhood and teenage years in East Texas. Among the many interesting stories she tells is what school was like and how she got places. There also are interviews with five men involved with baseball, including: (1) Ron Gideon, manager in the New York Mets farm system; (2) Bill Terry, avid baseball card collector; (3) Tim Harkrider, baseball player for the California Angels; (4) Robert Ellis, Minor League baseball player; and (5) Chester Stoddard, retired veterinarian and baseball player. (EH)

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Volume XXIV No. 1 *Winter 1996*

Page 2 - Introduction by Samantha Woodfin

Page 3 - Sybil Scott by Samantha Woodfin and Mandy Morton

Page 15 - Ron Gideon by Samantha Woodfin and Brad Kennedy

Page 37 - Bill Terry by Samantha Woodfin and Brad Kennedy

Page 42 - Tim Harkrider by Nicholas Downing and Brad Kennedy

Page 50 - Robert Ellis by Nicholas Downing

Page 61 - Chester Studdard by Beth Hazelwood and Nicholas Downing

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This issue of the *Loblolly* is dedicated to my great-grand mother Sybil Scott. She was born in 1910 and is still going strong today at the age of 85. She is known and loved by many people around this area. "Granny Sib" shared with us some very interesting tales of what it was like growing up in the 10's and 20's. She is like a history book come to life. She is one of the very few people that has been able to see all the changes in the 20th century. She remembers, very vividly, her childhood and teenage years in East Texas. She depicts to us what school was like, how she got places, and many other interesting stories. When she is gone, a great piece of history is gone with her. So we took the time to gather her stories. It took us a while but we finally finished it. As many people know, she is the world's best talker. She was very cooperative and willing to tell almost anything.

This is the last issue of the *Loblolly* that I will be able to put together . I have been part of *Loblolly* for four years and have enjoyed every moment of it. While on the *Loblolly* staff we have been able to go many places and see many unusual and interesting things. For the past eleven years we have won "The Outstanding Chapter Award" for the Texas Junior Historians. *Loblolly* has taught me a lot. I will take it with me and will always remember it. I have learned to stop and listen to our elders because they do have really neat stories to tell. I will miss being a part of *Loblolly* and it's staff. I hope you enjoy the book as much as I did putting it together.

Samantha Woodfin

Samantha Woodfin
Editor, 1993-1995

Sybil Scott

Sybil Scott was born in 1910. She was born and raised in East Texas. She has continued to stay in this area most all of her life. Mrs. Scott has seen more changes in this generation than most of us probably will ever see. She remembers as a kid having to grow tomatoes and pick cotton by hand for a living. We consider her as a living history book waiting to be discovered. She has many great stories to tell and can remember just about anything from moonshining to computers. She had seen, done, and lived everything and that is what makes her so special. We really enjoyed spending time with Mrs. Sybil Scott. She has taught us a great deal that we will never forget.

Q: When and where were you born?

A: I was born in Panola County in a place called Garrett Springs. I was born October 22, 1910.

Q: What was your daddy like or what did he do?

A: His name was Bob Terry. He was born in Mississippi. He was a road commissioner, constable, and a sheriff.

Q: Tell us about your mother?

A: Her name was Fanny Terry. She was also born in Mississippi. They (she and papa) came to Arkansas for two years, and then here. She was a housewife. You know, she stayed home to cook, clean and to take care of us.

Robert Terry (father), Sybil Terry, and Frances Terry (mother)

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I went to a school called Pike School. It was located on FM 999, close to Davis Store.

Q: What was the school building like?

A: It was a two room building. There was a big room and a small room. The big one was for the older kids and the small room for the little kids. There were two boxwood heaters, you nearly froze to death in the winter before they got them started.

Q: Did you go year round?

A: No. We didn't go as long as you all do.

Q: Tell us about what you did at school.

A: We lived a small piece from school, and momma always used to say, "I know my Sybil's all right, you can hear her yelling a mile away." That was during recess of course. I played ball with the boys, one girl lost the ball every time she hit it. I'd get so mad I didn't know what to do. That night we'd make another ball out of socks.

Q: How did you make the balls out of socks?

A: You would unravel the sock and wind up the woolen yarn and make a ball.

Q: What kind of subjects did you have?

A: I took all of the usual subjects.

Q: How many years did you go to school?

Fannie Terry with Sybil as an infant

A: I finished the 10th grade. During my schooling, a lady came to teach drama. I would get so mad at her because during recess, she would take us one by one and teach us to act. One day she got me down and and told me how I was going to act. Just how to say it. I was an old woman, a clown, and I just got tired of doing it. But then you had to take that class.

Q: What kind of games did you play when you were little?

A: We played drop the handkerchief. A ring of kids would get in a circle. One kid would walk behind you and drop the handkerchief in your hands. Then if you were the kid with the handkerchief, then you had to chase the one who dropped it there. If you didn't catch him, then you sat in the pot. If you caught him, then he sat in the pot. In a way it's kind of like Duck, Duck, Goose. Then we played a game called Snap.

A boy and a girl would hold hands. The boy would point or say to the girl "Sybil come catch me," or someone come catch me. Then that girl would tell a boy to come catch her. It was kind of like chase or tag.

Q: Did you go away on ball trips? Like basketball or baseball.

A: Yes. The last year I was at school.

Q: How did you get to the games?

A: We had about 3 Model T cars. We played at Wedgeworth. That's on the Shelby-Panola County line.

Q: Did you have to work when you were little?

Old water well at Sybil's house

A: I didn't work until I was 10 years old. My daddy died when I was 10, that was in 1920. I had to work then to help momma out.

Q: Did you have electricity?

A: No. But we had water springs anyway. We drew water out of a bored well, with a well bucket.

Q: When did you get married?

A: I was 21 when I met Cecil. We got married when I was about 22. We lived in this house about 60 years before I moved. Then I married Mr. Scott, after Cecil died.

Q: Tell us about your children.

A: My second child was born in 1934. Bobbie, my baby girl, grew up here. Then she went to school in Harmony. After that she went to Panola and met Jerry Woodfin. She met him after her daddy passed away. She married him about 3 months after she met him. So we bought her a house and moved it over here by me. Bobbie has been here for a long while.

Bobbie Jean Long (Sybil's daughter)

Q: Tell us what you did to make a living after Cecil died.

A: For one year I grew tomatoes. I had cows also.

Q: Did he leave you any money?

A: Not too much. But he did leave me a living, but not a whole lot. There weren't any CD's or anything like that. I had white faced cows, goats, and hogs.

Q: Did you sell them?

A: Yes. I made a living off of the calves.

Q: You married again, how long after Cecil?

A: I married 9 years after Cecil passed away. I married a man named Leroy Scott.

Q: What did you do after you married Leroy?

A: He wanted to farm. I worked in the public. I ran broiler houses. We had commercial eggs. Pam (Samantha's mom) helped me for a while. Then in Timpson, I worked at cafes, then I worked at the senior citizens place in Timpson. After that I went to work for Home Health and Care under Cheryl Hollenshead.

Q: Where did you live?

A: At my house in Garrett Springs. Cecil and I built my first house here. I have lived here 60 years. It was my first home.

The house where Sybil grew up

Q: What did Leroy do for a living?

A: He hauled gravel. Then he went to raising cattle on my place.

Q: Where did you work after he died?

A: That's when I went to work for the senior citizens place and all of that.

Q: In what year did he die?

A: He died about 1976 or 1977.

Q: What did you all do for fun?

A: We worked, so we were tired. At night, sometimes, we would go to peoples houses to visit and play 42. Every Sunday we went to church.

Q: Did you ever go on vacations?

A: No. I never went on a vacation. When I went to work at the nutrition site that's when I started touring. I went to Europe in 1984. There we stayed 17 days. Then Eva Buser and I went to Mississippi, and I went to Eureka Springs, Natchez, and Branson.

Q: What did you and grandaddy Cecil do? Did you go to dances?

A: We went to parties. They sung for us to dance by. In Jacksonville, they had houses that no one lived in and 2 men would come and play a guitar and fiddle and we would square dance.

Q: When did you get your first car?

A: I didn't get one until Cecil and I got married. My first car was a 49 Ford. Then I bought myself a 64 Ford Fairlane. Now I have a 83 Cougar.

Q: Do you like living with Bobbie better than living alone?

A: Well I like living with Bobbie better. We have more company that way. Another thing is I don't like to cook. I don't mind housework, but I hate to cook.

Q: What do you do for fun now?

A: I go to Eastern Star. I go to Arp for the senior citizens dance. I also play 42 and Skip-bo.

Q: How many children do you have?

A: I have 2 children. One boy and a girl.

Q: How many grandchildren?

A: Four wonderful boys.

Q: How many great-grandchildren?

A: Oh, I have had six of them.

Q: Have you had a hard life?

A: No. I have had a good life. I didn't have a lot of money but I have had a good time.

Q: What do you miss the most?

A: I don't feel like I used to. But I still go a lot. I have arthritis, but I take a pill and keep going.

Q: What do you miss the least?

A: Outdoor toilets. I didn't like them, they were something else. We also had to bathe in a washtub. Electricity, now I do like that!

Sybil Scott with Samantha Woodfin, great granddaughter and former Loblolly editor.

Q: In your lifetime you have seen technology rise. It has gone from coal oil lamps to light bulbs, and now to solar power. What do you think is the biggest accomplishment?

Samantha Woodfin holding an old flashlight that belonged to Mrs. Sybil Scott

A: I think that it was electricity. For one thing, I like my electric blanket!

Q: Are there some things you miss that you had in the old days that you don't have now?

A: I am glad to have all of the conveniences that we have today. I love the indoor toilets. One day I went home with some girls, and I knew that they had an outdoor toilet, cause everyone did. Of course, they didn't tell me that they had an old goose.

Well they let me go in first. And just as soon as I sat down, that old goose came in the back and plucked me good. The girls knew what was going to happen. It was a good thing no one was around, especially any guys.

Ron Gideon

We visited Ron Gideon at his home in Hallsville. He has experienced great success in his baseball career starting at Hallsville High School. He then moved on to Panola College when he was the only two time All-American to play there. Then he began his career in professional baseball which continues today as a manager in the New York Mets farm system.

Q: When and where were you born?

A: I was born in Tyler, Texas on January 13, 1964.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I graduated from Hallsville High School. After I was born the family moved from Tyler to Hallsville, and I went all through school here. I graduated in 1982. I met my sweetheart on my senior trip, and she is my wife now. Kim graduated one year after I did. And we will probably be here until we die.

Q: How did you learn to play baseball?

A: I guess I was lucky as it was just natural. When I was a little kid that's all we did in the yard. We didn't really do much else. We played some football, but most of the time it was baseball.

Q: Was it your dad who taught you?

A: No it wasn't. My dad went to the University of Houston as a fullback. He played football. My older brother ended up going to Louisiana Tech and playing football. So it really wasn't something in the genes because no one else had played baseball. But baseball was just something I did as soon as I was old enough to get around. It was baseball. I wasn't crazy about football. I liked it though. In high school I wasn't going to play my senior year, then I got talked into it. Now I'm glad I did. But baseball came first. I knew I was going to college to play baseball.

Q: So did any specific person teach you to play baseball?

A: No, not really. There wasn't such a person. I just

started at the Pee-Wee level and worked up. It was just a God-given talent that took over and got me where I am now.

Q: Did they have a good baseball program at Hallsville?

A: It was competitive. There wasn't a whole lot of teaching. The group I came up with, everybody just got together on the weekends, or during the week after school, and just played baseball. No one just sat down and taught you how to play. We more or less, I don't know if it was from watching TV or what, but we knew what we were doing.

Ron Gideon

Q: How was baseball in high school?

A: In both my junior and senior year we went to the playoffs. Both years we lost in the first round. It was fun and exciting and we had a good time. It was really disappointing because as anybody says, you should go further than you did. We had a pretty solid team. We beat Dangerfield my junior year, and they had a very good team. Then we ended up getting beat in the next game by one run. That's just the way baseball goes. You could play the sorriest teams, and they could beat you three out of four games. It's just a thing that you have to take day by day.

Q: What positions did you play?

A: I pitched and played first base. I made All-District. Then as you know, I went to Panola College where I pitched sometimes. I wasn't crazy about it, and I didn't think Coach Davis was crazy about it either. So I stuck with first base and made All-American for two years.

Q: Did you get recruited to go to Panola College?

A: Yes, Jacke Davis recruited me. I had a chance to go to Louisiana Tech, Lubbock Christian, but I was one of those kids who wasn't crazy about leaving home. Coming from a little town, and never having been out of the state of

Texas, more or less out of the town Hallsville -- it's a big thing for a kid coming out of high school to leave and go off on his own. These days I think it is a big thing. They should, because it helps them down the road. But on the other hand, I think it's better for a kid that is not going to be an all-star at a four year school, to go two years to a junior college. Because that is two years that you are going to get to play. At a junior college you can't pick up kids and set them on a bench because you only have them two years. At a four year school you can waste that first year, and don't have to play. They can red-shirt you.

I wanted to go to a four year school, but I wanted to play also. I'm not saying I wouldn't have gotten to play if I'd gone to a four year school, but I decided to go to Panola. And I enjoyed every minute of it. Coach Davis was super. He took me under his wing more-or-less like another son. I got to do different things with them. We would go out to his land, and go riding, and go fishing. We went and played golf some. I'm an outdoors person and I enjoyed all that. We even got out to Gary. But those were the main things. In my spare time, if I didn't have something to do, I'd pack up and come home. It's not that far from Carthage. That's one of the biggest pluses of being at Panola. If you needed something, you could just jump in the car and run home. Your parents are there to help you.

Q: How was your performance at Panola?

A: My first year I hit 25 home runs. I'm not sure how many RBI's I ended up with. I think it was 70 or 80 something RBI's. I made All-American, and made the All-Star team, which went to College Station and played in the All-Star Game.

My next year was more-or-less ditto. I got to do the same thing. I went to A&M and played in the All-Star Game. I was voted All-American again. I was lucky enough after my first year to be drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates. I wasn't crazy about leaving yet, because I hadn't been away from the house and didn't know what was going to happen. I wanted to find out more about professional baseball. So I passed that up and played another year at Panola.

Q: Are you the only one that made All-American for two years in a row all Panola?

A: Don't get me to lying. I didn't know that before, but I'm glad to know it now.

Q: Was it 1983-1984 that you made All-American?

A: That's right.

Q: So, when did you go to the pro's?

A: In 1984, after I graduated from Panola, I went out to Iowa to play in the Jayhawks League, which is an amateur summer camp. And then the draft came up in June and I was drafted by the Phillies. I had a choice between signing with the Phillies or go to play at the University of Texas. That was one of the toughest and the biggest decisions that I've ever made. Because turning down a full scholarship to get to go to the University of Texas, where for the past two years they had been in the College World Series and won it one of the two years, and having a lot of the same guys back was hard to refuse. Did you want to sign to play pro ball or did you want to go play for a team that might go to the College World Series and be the champion?

So I decided to go sign with the Phillies because of the opportunity. You never know, you could get hurt, and might not get the chance ever again. The money was enough for me to sign and go. I don't regret it. I would have liked to have found out what a major college program like Texas was with a chance to be in the spotlight. But I guess my biggest goal was going to play pro ball.

Q: So you went and signed with the Phillies?

A: Yes, I signed with the Phillies. I left and went to Bend, Oregon. Needless to say, Panola is a little closer than Bend,Oregon. I went up there to play. It was a short season league and I was there 2 1/2 months. It was beautiful country, and I loved every minute of it. Like I said earlier, the experiences make you grow up and discover what life is like, because you're on your own. I couldn't hop into my car and run home, for it would take a long time to get there.

Q: How did you do?

A: It was an experience. I think I hit like 13 home runs, 40 something RBI's. It was more or less a learning experience, find out what it is all about, learning about work habits, finding the differences between pro and college ball.

Q: Did you go from the Phillies to the Mets?

A: I was traded a year and a half later to the Mets. I've been with the Mets ever since then.

Q: How was life in the Minors when you were playing?

A: It's tough. There are a lot of bus trips and the fields aren't that great until you start moving up to Double or

Triple A. Two years ago they just signed a new agreement that they have to meet these specifications so the fields have started to be upgraded. Before then it was pretty tough. If your parents ever had a chance to go over and watch Shreveport play before they got their new stadium you would know what I was talking about. Minor League fields in some cases weren't as good as high school fields I've seen. But that's all part of it, because in the Minor Leagues you're not going to make a lot of money. And the team is not going to make a lot of money. So you just have to deal with what comes. It's more or less exposure is what it's all about. It's getting people to see you play, and just moving up one step at a time.

Q: How far up did you make it?

A: The highest I made it was Triple A. I got to play about three weeks in Triple A. Most of my time was spent in Double A.

Q: Can you trace your Minor League career for us?

A: The first year, as I said, I was in Bend, Oregon. The second year I went to Newport News, Virginia which was the Carolina League. I was traded afterwards to the Mets, and the Mets had a team in the same league which was in

Lynchburg, Virginia. After Lynchburg, I went to Jackson, Mississippi. That's where I spent most of my career, in Jackson, Mississippi. That was at Double A. That was great for me as it was only four hours from Hallsville. It was almost like the Carthage deal in college. On weekends or a day off you could jump in the car and come home. After I got there I was turned into a pitcher. I had played first base before in the first part of my career. Then I was turned into a pitcher and went to St. Lucie, Florida back into A level ball. I was there to learn the ropes of pitching. Then I was promoted back up to Jackson to pitch. So I got to see that place again.

Then a year after that we built a brand new stadium in Binghamton, New York. That's where I enjoyed most of my career. After the first year I was turned into a coach. I coached half a season in Jackson, Mississippi then went back to St. Lucie and coached for a year. Then I was sent to Bingharnton to coach.

Q: Why did you quit playing?

A: Sad to say I didn't have a choice. We were in a situation when they turned me into a pitcher where they had some guys that they wanted to move up. They felt I wasn't progressing like I should, like they thought I should. So they said you can do this pitching or you can go to the house

because you start that 9 to 5 job and I wasn't ready for that. So I started pitching, and pitched two and a half years. I ran into the same situation again. They had some younger guys out of A level ball that they wanted to send to Double A and start moving up. I was the older pitcher on the team, and they didn't feel I was ready to go to Triple A to pitch.

So they asked me if I would like to consider being a coach. What it boiled down to again was, do you want to be a coach or do you want to go to the house? Of course you had the choice to be put on the waivers to see if another team would pick you up, but I wasn't crazy about starting with a new team, learning the people and the organization, the Mets had treated me great. Everything I've ever asked for they've done for me. They're a top notch organization. So that's one of the reasons I decided that I would stick with them and coach because I like the things they did through their system and organization.

The year I went to Binghamton as a coach we won the championship there. That was probably the happiest moment of my whole career. That was seeing a group of kids that were over-achievers. They didn't have great talent to play with the teams we were competing against, but they stuck with it. They worked hard and won the championship. That was probably the brightest part of my career.

Q: Do you coach and manage?

A: In the Minor League you have a manager and a pitching coach. That's all you have. So now I manage. I get to take all the blame for the losses and don't take any credit for the wins.

Q: How long have you been managing?

A: This will be my third year. I've managed the last two years in Kingsport, Tennessee. This year (1995) I'll be going to Pittsfield, Massachusetts which is in Rookie Ball. I'll be working with our younger players. I'm sure you want to move up or you want to get as high as you can. We're (the Mets) in a situation now where we have a lot of high school kids that need to be taught. They don't know a lot about baseball and what it really is. Then it's more or less a teaching process.

In the last two years what I've been doing they've been happy with. So they asked me if I would keep doing that, at least for this next year, the teaching part. I guess I could take that as a credit if they want me to stay with

them and teach what our organization does. I can be happy with that. It's Rookie Ball, and you want to be higher, but my outlook is, one day down the road is I'll be managing at a higher level. That's because if I didn't think I was going to be higher someday I wouldn't be doing this. That's because spending the time away from my family. Isn't worth it otherwise. It's tough. That's the toughest part of this game. You leave in the first of March and you don't come home until September first. And the only time you get to see the family is when school has a break.

Q: What has been some of your teams records?

A: This year we were 36-30. We tied for second place in our league. The year before we were 30-36 and were fourth in the league. The year that we won it in Binghamton, I think we were 74-46. We won the championship there.

Q: What year was that?

A: It was in 1992 when we won.

Q: What are some of the priorities of being manager?

A: The biggest thing I found out as to priorities was to

know your pitching staff. Your pitching staff is who is going to carry you. You're going to win with your pitchers. The position players, the hitting, you get to work with that every day. Pitchers, it's once every five days. You have a five man rotation for starters. Those are the ones you have to keep polished because every fifth day you want one of them to come up and give you his best.

That's the biggest learning experience that I'm learning is the pitching staff. Sure I've pitched two and a half years, but it's a lot different sitting over there and making a decision when this guy is tired. That's all he has, he doesn't have anything else and I need to make a change. I have to get a guy up in the bullpen where he will be ready when I want to make that change.

So as a player you kind of had time to sit back and just relax and more or less daydream. As a manager you have to be on top of everything as to situations in the game. You have to know two rules to know if an umpire makes the right or wrong call. I can gripe with the best of them. I can put on a show. But, that's not for me. Everybody is human and umpires are going to make mistakes. I make mistakes and have to deal with it. Me getting on them plus all the fans are part of the game. Unless it's just a ridiculous call I might say a few words or let it go. I'm not going to be on their backs.

Q: Do you have a choice on which players move up or come up?

A: No. That is done from our Minor League Director, the front office people take care of all that stuff. They have a lot of decisions to make. Needless to say, once you get a guy situated and comfortable, they come in and move him. That's what the game is all about, is one day at a time, and try and make that kid learn at least one thing. If he does, then you know you're doing your job. When the year is over make sure that kid is moving to the next level. If he's not, you look at yourself and say, "I've done everything I can." Now he's going to have to do it. If he comes back to you, you start over or pick up where you left off. Everything that's done through the whole system, from top to bottom, is done from the front office.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: I would like to be a Major League manager. I wouldn't mind being a Major League coach, anything in the Majors because that's where the money is. That's what everybody in the Minor League is in it for, is to get to the Majors. If they're in it not to get there, they shouldn't be in it. That's because you're not going to make any money in

the Minor Leagues. It's tough for a player you go to play for five and a half months, and you go home and have to find another job. You've got to make money to take the next year, if you want some spending money, otherwise your going to be living from check to check. It's tough. That's what it's all about to get to the Majors.

Q: So what's going to get you to the Major Leagues?

A: I'm not saying I will get to the Majors. That's not my decision. I feel I have a lot of knowledge in this game. I've worked with some great people. One man who got called up to the Majors was the manager in Double A when I was the coach there. I learned a lot from him, Steve Swisher. I learned a lot.

One of my best friends was Clint Hurdle, who I played with and lived with. He's with the Colorado Rockies now. He was with us. He is probably my closest friend in this game. Unfortunately, he's with another organization. Now when I go to spring training, he has to go out to Arizona where their spring training is. He lets me live in his place. He's probably been in it four more years than I have. He's managed, he's coached, and he's a hitting instructor now. That's his big goal. He knows a lot of people in the Major League. Needless to say, you've got to be in the right place at the right time.

You have to know the right people. We've talked a lot, and he thinks highly of me. He more or less got me a coaching job, and he said if he ever got to the Majors that he would take me on his coaching staff if he was the manager. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed. If he does great, but if he doesn't that's life. I'm still doing what I know, and I'm doing the best I can. Then if New York isn't satisfied with that then it's time to get out. But right now they seem satisfied with what I'm doing. So I'll stick with that. It's been a tough year. We just got through firing a lot of people from the strike. Needless to say, when you get a strike at the top, the people at the bottom start to get cut. They're not going to cut the Major League people. So we had some people fired this year, but I was one of the lucky ones and still have a job. So I'm happy for that.

Q: So you enjoy life in baseball?

A: I love it. This is all I've ever done. It kind of scares me because I've been in it eleven years. This will be my 12th year. You start looking down the road and think, when is this going to end? You don't want it to end. If it does, what are you going to do? I only have two years of college. Sure I've been hard headed, and haven't gone back to school during the off season. I'm not crazy about going

back to school. I'd love to keep coaching. I'd love to coach at the high school level or at the college level. But I'd have to go back and get my college degree. I don't have a problem with that, but right now I just don't have the time. I don't know what I'd do if baseball ended right now. I'd try to get with another team. If it really was over, I'd come back home and get a job until maybe I did get some school. Maybe I'd go to work for the Eastman plant where you don't have to worry about anything but the plant blowing up.

Q: What are your retirement plans?

A: In time, I'd like to retire from what I'm doing now. You can't really retire from the Minor Leagues, because you don't have the money to retire on. If I got to the Majors, sure I'd retire, but if I got to the Major's the first thing I would do is to get my wife Kim out of teaching. Not that the teaching isn't good, but I would do it so she would have some free time. She's my biggest supporter, and biggest fan. She has done so much for me going through this baseball. She's fixing to raise another child, Ronnie Jr., in addition to our two daughters Shelby and Bailey.

I'm gone for six months and she has three kids by herself. That's not easy especially as young as they are.

But when school is over she joins me for the summer. They have flown down for spring break before and that is about ten days. The girls love the beach. It's going to be tough this year as she will have to buy three plane tickets instead of two, and plane tickets are so high. They enjoy the time coming down there. I'm lucky they all enjoy baseball. Kim is very athletic. She went to East Texas Baptist and played basketball over there. She played volleyball, basketball, and track in high school. So we have a sports family. A lot of baseball families are split ones, but we are lucky and we stay with sports.

Loblolly staff members Samantha Woodfin and Brad Kennedy with Ron Gideon and daughters Bailey and Shelby

Q: If you went to New York to coach, would you still live in Hallsville?

A: My home is here. My home is in Hallsville. I grew up here and it's always going to be my home. That's why I'm building a new home across town. I plan on ending my life here.

Q: Have you coached people who have gone to the Majors to play?

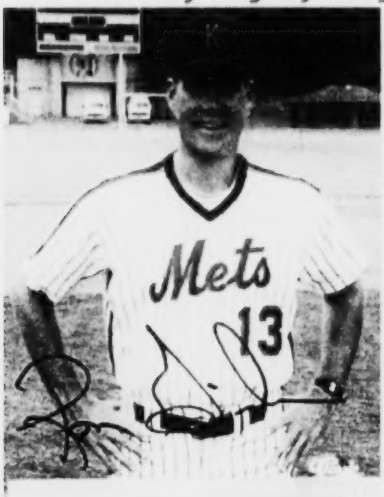
A: When I was at Double A I did. In Rookie Ball where I'm at now is the most fun. You're getting kids that are your top draft picks out of high school or college. Those are the ones that you groom to move up, and hopefully one day they'll get to the Majors. When you're a manager, a coach, or a pitching coach, you don't get any of the glory of getting in the Majors or whatever. Your biggest glory is getting one of those kids to the Majors. If you just get one that's what it's all about. You want to see somebody that you've coached or managed get to the Majors.

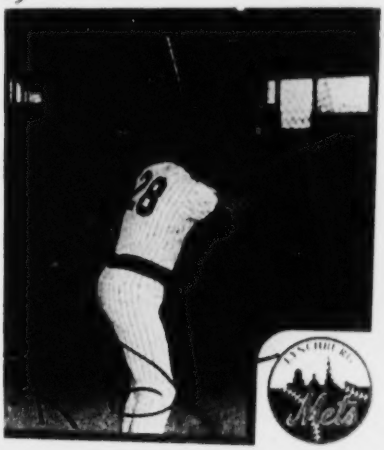
I've been lucky. This year our top three draft picks were sent to me. They're going to be tough. The year before I had the number one draft pick which was Mookie Wilson's step-son, Preston Wilson. He's going to be in the Majors in a few years. You have three Class Rookie ball teams, then you have a high A, a low A, Double A, Triple A, and Major League. So you have a lot of steps for a player to go through.

If you can jump a step more power to you. That's what it's all about. You want to get to the top as quick as you can. But sometimes it takes awhile, especially for kids out of high school. That's because they need the experience and the playing time.

Kids coming out of college can skip the Rookie League levels. They can go to low or high A, and Double A and up. Bobby Jones who is on our big league team, one of the starting pitchers, I got to coach him when we were in Double A. Allen Zinter, who was the first baseman on that team, was traded last year to the Tigers. He's in he Major Leagues. Todd Hundley, who is our catcher in New York, I got to play with and coach him. So that was interesting. And I've played against a lot of guys who got to the Majors. It doesn't really frustrate you, but you sit and say, "when I played against that guy he wasn't that much better or he was just as good as I was." Some of it is also being in the right place at the right time, and with the right organization. There's no predictable reason always, or timetable. There's not a must when this guy should go up. Like I said, it's a decision from the front office. The best place to be right now is Triple A, because if a guy in the Major's gets hurt, boom, you're there. And that's what I'm talking about as to being in the right place at the right time.

The money in the Majors is great. If you make the move up you start at the minimum, which at $109,000 a year is a lot. You get $69 a day for meal money. There's a lot of money to be made in the Major Leagues. So that's your biggest goal-get at least one kid to the Majors. That's where you get your glory.





RONNIE GIDEON
Lynchburg INF

RON GIDEON 1B

ProCards

RON GIDEON
Coach
St. Lucie Mets

Bill Terry

We met Bill Terry, who lives close to us, through a shared love of baseball. On our visit to his home we discovered him to be an avid baseball card collector. Bill Terry enjoys the game and the collecting, and the pleasure in sharing his ideas on both with others.

Q: When and where were you born?

A: I was born in Jasper, Alabama on March 8, 1945.

Q: Where did you go to school and how was your family life?

A: I went to several different schools because we lived in 28 of the 48 states. My father worked for the government, he was a welder on the nuclear submarines. One time we left Miami, Florida and it was 78 degrees and we went to New London, Connecticut and it was 17 below zero. As a kid, I almost froze to death. I have been married to my wife Margie for 31 years. We have five kids and 13 grandchildren.

Q: Where do you work?

A: I build barbecue pits and do a little bit of welding around the house.

Q: What were your early interests in baseball and did you ever play any?

A: I always liked baseball and I played for a few different teams when I was in school.

I liked to pitch or play second base because generally I had a pretty fair arm.

Q: What were your early interests in collecting cards?

A: I have been collecting cards for about eleven years. I used to go and get them in chewing gum packages. I thought that one day they might be worth something, so I just started putting them into a box and keeping up with them.

Q: In what ways do you collect cards?

A: I get then from one person or another and then I swap some of them. I buy some from the store now and then. I have been to some of the shows in Houston, Dallas and Shreveport to buy and trade them. I usually buy them in packs, but occasionally I buy an individual card.

Q: What are your best cards?

A: I like the Nolan Ryan and Bo Jackson cards. I have about five or six Nolan Ryan cards and one of Bo Jackson.

Q: Do you have a certain amount of cards that you would like to have?

A: No, because I believe that if you set an amount on something, when you reach that point, you will decide that you want to stop or won't be interested in it anymore. If you set a goal and reach it, you need to set it a little bit higher. If you don't have a goal to look forward, you will never amount to much.

Q: What type of problems do you run into when collecting cards?

Bill Terry with just a few of his collection

A: I would like to have some of the White Sox team in 1925 and 1926, but they are sure hard to come by. That is when they changed uniforms, and I think that would be great to have a card of a player in each uniform. I have a great time collecting cards. When I go to the card shows, I can meet people from all over the place. I could meet people from the governor's office. All races, nationalities, and all walks of life enjoy collecting cards. It is just like collecting guns or even marbles, if you like to do it, then do it.

Tim Harkrider

We went back for another visit with Tim Harkrider in September, 1994 after his first full season of professional baseball. He made the jump to the Double AA level and spent the year with Midland of the Texas League. His great performance there earned him a tour in the Fall of 1994 with Tempe in the Arizona Fall League. All the Major League teams get to send their top prospects to play there, and Tim Harkrider is one of the best the California Angels have. Then it's back to Carthage for his wedding in December. And then Spring training will launch the 1995 season for him to take the next step to the Majors.

Q: When and where was spring training held?

A: Spring training was held from March 10 until April 3, in Mesa, Arizona.

Q: How was your training?

A: It was not as bad as everyone said it was. We did not run a lot like everyone thought we would. I thought that I would get out there and get killed by all of the running because of the weather. You cannot run that much in the winter months. It was mainly just a lot of early morning workouts and that was the hard part because I was not used to getting up that early.

Q: What was the daily routine?

A: The first week, we were up and eating at seven, and we had to be on the field by eight. It was cool in the mornings, but it was still wet outside and that made it rough. We would practice from eight until noon. We would eat lunch, and then go back to practice from one until three. Then we would play a game against other organizations in Arizona. We had the same routine seven days a week.

Q: How did you do in spring training?

A: I started off working out with the Double A team and I stayed with them throughout the whole spring training and the whole '94 season. Throughout spring training they moved people up, down and all around and released people.

But, I stayed at Midland the whole time. We also have three Single A teams, a Triple A team, and then the Major league team. So I am two steps away from the big leagues.

Tim Harkrider with staff members Nicholas Downing and Brad Kennedy

Q: What was a typical day in Midland during the season?

A: I would get up about 10:30 and go lift weights. I would finish up about 11:30 and I would come home and watch soap operas from 12:00 to 1:00. I would make and eat lunch, then I would watch soap operas from 1:00 to about 3:00. Then I would get up and go to the field. I would get dressed and go out and take batting practice from 4:15 to 5:00. I'd go in and take infield from 6:00 to 6:15 and start the game at 7:00. We would finally get through at ten or eleven each night. It ends up being about a seven to eight hour job every day.

Q: Did you play in the Texas League?

A: Yes, I played in the Texas League and got to come home and play Shreveport and other places close to home. Mario Mendoza was my manager and he is an ex-big league short-stop. "The Mendoza line of hitting 200", was named after him because he could play defense real well, but his batting average was never over 200. He is a good manager and a good guy to play for. He is the most laid back coach that I have ever played for. He is very easy going and he doesn't get upset about too much.

Q: Who were some of your teammates?

A: Chris Smith was our third baseman. He was a supplemental first round draft pick in '92 and Marcus Riley, who was a second round pick in '92. A lot of the guys that I played with have been around for five or six years. It was an older team, our average age was probably 26. I was the second youngest guy on our team, next to Chris.

Q: How was traveling from place to place?

A: It was nice for us because we flew everywhere. A lot of other teams had to ride a bus, but we were fortunate to get to fly. The only bad thing was that all of our flights were between five and seven in the morning, so we had to get up from four to five to fly out everywhere. That was hard because the same day that you would fly out, you would play a game that same night. It was kind of rough having to get up and play with all of the traveling, but it was better than 12 hours on a bus ride.

Q: Did they have a Tim Harkrider Night in Shreveport?

A: Well it was called a Carthage Night. It was pretty neat because there were over a thousand people there from Carthage. It was a neat feeling playing, because when I ran out on the field, they announced that it would be Tim Harkrider Night and all of my teammates gave me a hard time about that.

Q: How is the Texas League different from college ball?

A: It is better competition for the most part. The pitching staffs were a lot better in the Texas League and it has a lot better players. The traveling was definitely different and you would play every day. You would get one or two days off per month at the most. That was the hardest part about the Texas League. We would probably play Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, then probably one game during the week on a Tuesday or so in college.

Q: Did you have a problem switching from aluminum bats to wooden bats?

A: Not really, I played the summers of '91 and '92 in Anchorage, Alaska and we used wooden bats up there. So, I got to use wooden bats two months of those years and that helped me to make the adjustments a little better. The main difference between the two bats is that if you hit on the end of an aluminum bat, you will hit it pretty hard and get a base hit. But, if you hit the end of a wooden bat, it will snap it in half. I like a wooden bat better because it is more fun. It sounds better and when you hit one with a wooden bat, you can really feel it.

Q: Do you have a wedding on the horizon?

A: Yes, I an getting married to Carie Bogenschutz on December 17. That is a big deal that is going on in my life this year and I am really excited about that. We have been dating for six years, so it is about time that we do something because she was getting a little bit frustrated with me.

Q: If you get moved up to the Triple A team, where will you be playing in 1995?

A: I will be playing in Las Vegas or Portland. I prefer Las Vegas because I think that it would be neat to play there.

Q: What was your best game in the '94 season?

A: My best game was probably the last game that I played in Midland. I hit four out of five and that was the most hits that I had in a game this year. But, the best game that I had was in Wichita. I had not hit any until the last inning and when I came up, we were down by three with two outs and I hit a three-run triple to tie the game. Then in the 11th inning, we were down by one run with two outs, a runner on second and I got a base hit to tie the game again. We went to the 13th inning. I came up with the bases loaded and I got a base hit to win the game. I ended up with five RBI's and three hits that game.

Q: What are your plans for this winter?

A: I am going to go out and play in the Arizona Fall League, which is one of the best fall leagues that is around in the world. Each team sends six players out of their organization to go out there and play. It is mainly Triple A players that go there and a few Double A players, so it is a

good chance for me to boost my career. They drafted a shortstop position for me. So they said that right now, I was the top middle fielder prospect in their organization. They are expecting big things from me. I may try second base, but I will probably be playing shortstop most of the year.

Q: What are your expectations for the '95 season.

A: I am hoping to go out and have a good year in Arizona and get a shot to be the shortstop in Triple A. Hopefully in spring training they will start me out working there and I can go and show them what I can do and get the Triple A shortstop job.

Q: What are you career goals?

A: I would like to play in the Major leagues soon. I hope that I can be there in two to three years, but the sooner the better. I could possibly get there a little sooner. There are two free agents that are going to be gone from the California Angels team, but the shortstop that they have right now still has two more years left on his contract. He is a pretty good player, but other than that, they don't have anybody on Triple A that is their main guy or prospect that is going to be up there soon. So, I think that it is a good shot that I may have and opportunity to get up there a little sooner. It just depends on what they do on the free agent market and if they bring in guys from the other teams, but you never know how that works. From what they tell me, they are expecting a lot from me, so I think that they would like to get me up there as soon as they can.

Tim Harkrider

I would like to thank my mom and dad for giving me the support that I needed to get me where I am now. My mom has been there through the good and the bad times regardless of what was going on. My dad helped by working me out and helping develop the ability that I got from God. My fiance has been there for me for the last six years.

Tim Harkrider's record for 1994 at Midland:

MIDLAND ANGELS (Angels)

BATTING	Avg.	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
#Barns, Jeff, 2B	164	73	5	12	2	0	0	5	1
Boykin, Tyrone, DH	236	426	67	100	21	3	5	63	9
*Conick, Emmitt, OF	261	330	41	86	25	5	8	52	3
Gonzales, Larry, C	300	70	11	21	6	0	2	18	0
#Harkrider, Timothy, SS	271	409	69	111	20	1	1	49	13
Monzon, Jose, C	251	283	41	71	18	3	4	35	1
Ortiz, Bo, OF	175	80	9	14	4	0	0	6	3
Parker, George, 3B	205	44	3	9	0	0	0	3	0
*Pritchett, Chris, 1B	309	460	86	142	25	4	6	91	5
Ramirez, J.D., 2B	287	449	81	129	27	3	14	58	3
Smith, Chris, 3B	261	421	61	110	17	4	3	56	2
Wolff, Mike, OF	290	397	64	115	30	1	13	58	10

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Robert Ellis

Over Christmas 1994 we visited Robert Ellis again to review his 1994 season. We found it had been a year of great challenges, but also a time of great learning for him as to baseball and his role in the game. He will be ready for whatever 1995 has for him. We will visit with him another year to bring you and us up to date on Robert Ellis and his career in baseball.

Q: Tell us about Spring Training?

A: It was my second year in camp with the Chicago White Sox so there really weren't any surprises. I pitched well when I got to pitch. I got to start one game in place of Jack McDowell when he got hurt. I gave up two hits in three innings and gave up no runs. That was against Kansas City. I can remember that game because I pretty excited in getting to start. I pitched in relief against Pittsburgh. I didn't do too well there.

Q: Did your know that a woman was managing the Pirates that day?

A: No, I didn't know that. I wasn't worried about their manager. I was concerned as to the wild pitch I threw which let in their winning run.

Washington, PA, Observer-Reporter
March 8, 1994

Washington woman 1-0 as Bucs' manager

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Her name will never appear in the official records, but Marianne DiFabio of Washington, is 1-0 as the Pittsburgh Pirates' manager.

DiFabio's husband, Bill, an *Observer-Reporter* sports correspondent and Pittsburgh sportscaster, was the high bidder at a charity auction for the right to manage the Pirates for a day. DiFabio knew the ribbing he'd take from his fellow sportscasters if he managed himself, so he turned the job over to his wife.

Pirates manager Jim Leyland made up the lineup and the pitching assignments, but allowed her to set the infield, apply the bunt and steal signs and position the outfielders. She also chose the pinch-hitters.

It was Marianne's call to bunt the runners up in the ninth inning, setting up reliever Robert Ellis' game-winning wild pitch in the Pirates' 3-2 exhibition victory over the White Sox.

"She ought to be in the highlights on TV," Leyland said. "It was her day. She was right on the ball. It was a more of a fun thing and she was a little tentative at first."

DiFabio even asked if center fielder Andy Van Slyke could pitch to Michael Jordan, but Leyland declined.

"She had a big day," Leyland said. "I told her the key to managing is winning the one-run games."

Q: In general though, you had a good Spring training experience?

A: Yes. I had a great spring. I didn't pitch a lot of innings, but I threw well in those five or six innings when I faced other teams. I also threw a lot in our inter-squad games. The White Six had to get their regular pitchers the work to get ready for the Big League season. These people were: Fernandez, Alvarez, McDowell, Bere.

Q: What was the Spring training like with Michael Jordan there?

A: There was a lot of press there to cover him. He was a nice guy. The year before we had Bo Jackson and then this year Michael Jordan. I wonder who they'll bring in this year. But the pressure wasn't on the rest of us, it was on Michael Jordan. He's not a bad player. He's got a lot of tools and raw talent, but he's got a lot of work to do. He told us that in his early career in basketball he had to work for everything. I think he told us he got cut from his ninth grade team, but kept on working by himself. That's the way he became the best basketball player in the world. He had a lot of talent but had to work too. He had the same challenge in baseball to develop his talents.

Q: So you got assigned to Nashville to play Triple A ball?

A: At the start of spring training I thought I'd be sent back to Birmingham (Double A) where I played in 1993. So I was happy to go to Nashville. I hadn't had a lot of innings pitched at Double A level in 1993. I had divided that season between A level and Double A level. My going to Triple A was a real show of confidence by the White Sox in me. We had the best pitching staff in all the Minor League baseball.

Q: You won your first start at Nashville?

A: Yes, I did well in that game. It was against Oklahoma City. I pitched seven innings and gave up three hits and no runs. I struck out six.

April 9, 1994

SATURDAY'S BOX SCORE

Nashville 2, Oklahoma City 0

NASHVILLE	ab	r	h	bi	OKLA. CITY	ab	r	h	bi
Martin 3b	4	1	1	1	McDowell cf	3	0	2	0
Thurman cf	4	0	0	0	Frye 2b	3	0	0	0
Ortiz rf	3	0	0	1	Greer rf	3	0	2	0
Denson dh	2	0	0	0	McCoy dh	4	0	1	0
Martinez 1b	3	0	0	0	Jackson 3b	4	0	0	0
Wolak rf	1	0	0	0	Maurer 1b	3	0	0	0
Wilson ss	3	0	0	0	Harris pr	0	0	0	0
Durham 2b	3	1	1	0	B. Davis lf	3	0	0	0
Saenz 3b	0	0	0	0	Peltier ph	1	0	0	0
Lindsey c	3	0	0	0	Gross	3	0	0	0
					McNamara c	2	0	0	0
					D. Davis c	0	0	0	0
Totals	**29**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**Totals**	**29**	**0**	**5**	**0**

Nashville	101	000	000—2 2 1
Oklahoma City	000	000	000—0 5 0

E—Wilson (1). DP—Nashville 3, OKC 1. LOB—OKC 7. 2B—N. Durham (1), Greer (1).

NASHVILLE	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ellis (W 1-0)	7.0	3	0	0	3	6
Powell (L)	1.0	1	0	0	1	0
Johnson (S,2)	1.0	1	0	0	1	1
OKLA. CITY						
Moody (L,0-1)	6.0	2	2	2	1	4
Lovelace (1)	3.0	0	0	0	0	5

T—2:13. A—8,206.

That was good for me. I was excited to pitch so well in my first start at the Triple A level. Then in my second game I hurt my arm.

Q: Did you also get hit in the groin by a batted ball?

A: That happened in Spring training. The guy who hit me just got traded to the Rangers in the Jose Conseco deal with the Red Sox. He was the third baseman, and I believe his name was Ortiz. He hit the line drive back at me. I had thrown a curve ball which just hung, and he hit it right back at me. I couldn't move and you know where it hit me. I went after the ball but my leg tightened up and I fell flat on my face. I was swollen up and still went out and pitched the next day.

Q: So at Nashville you hurt your arm in the second game?

A: Yes, it was against the Iowa Cubs.

Q: Did you know it was hurt?

A: Yes. It was a little bone near the elbow. I knew something wasn't right but I kept throwing. I did everything for it to make it better. I pitched nearly a full season with it hurting.

Q: Your season ended up with a record of 4-10?

A: I had a bad year but I couldn't throw. I could only throw my breaking ball 70 miles an hour. My fast ball was OK, but in throwing everything else I worried about my arm hurting. Finally I went to see Dr. Andrews, and he said I was fine. He's a doctor in Birmingham who is supposed to be the best in all of sports medicine. He told me I had a bad case of tendinitis and I should take a couple of days off. He said I didn't really need to take the time off, but I could go out and pitch. The next game I pitched and my arm was sore, then in the game after that the muscle tore off the bone completely.

Q: Were you operated on?

A: Yes, they cut me open and drilled three holes in my bone and reattached the muscle. They said the arm should be ready to go in three months. That was in August. Since then it's taken a lot of patience. That's true especially in my career. I look at the position I'm in. I'm in the same position as Scott Ruffcorn, James Baldwin, Rodney Bolton, Steve Shrenk (the other top White Sox pitching prospects).

Us five are all pretty close and I've already had three surgeries. They've never had surgeries and have been able to pitch when called on. So I look at them and think, " If I'd never had surgery, where would I be?" I guess the Lord is teaching me something. I'll find out what it is eventually.

Q: What happened after the surgery?

A: I went home for a couple of weeks then went to Florida to begin my rehabilitation program. I was down in the dumps for awhile which I got over.

Q: So how is the rehab going?

A: The arm is still sore, but I built up to throwing 25 pitches off the mound. I need to be up to 200 by the time spring training starts. I think the arm is back to where it was before the season. I can see progress. It's a lot better. Anything is better than having a torn muscle. I'm really happy with the way things are going. I can't complain about that.

I know this occurence has taught me the necessity to work hard. Before when I was healthy I'd take some things for granted. In working I'd do enough to just get a little tired. When you're doing the rehab on the arm you can't miss a step in the program. If you do it, it kind of haunts you later on. If you work on your forearm and forget your shoulder, you'll know the next day when your shoulder feels weak. Surgery is no fun.

Q: So what's the difference you found between Double A and Triple A ball?

A: There's more discipline at Triple A. You have better infielders behind you. You have a lot of older players.

You have people like Glen Davis who has played for the Houston Astros. He was playing for the Omaha Royals. The Indianapolis Indians had guys like Steve Peguis, Doug Jennings, Kevin Moss, Willie Green, Barry Lyons. These and others on that top Reds farm team had Major League time. They were good, so we compared them to the 1966 Yankees. They also had a pitching staff almost as good as ours at Nashville. That's who beat us in the championship series.

Q: Was the coaching and managing better at he level also?

A: Yes. You also got to fly wherever you had to go instead of of by bus. But actually I hated the flying schedule. It was hard to wake up at 4:30 in the morning after a game the night before. We'd get in from the game at 11:00 p.m. or 11:30 p.m. By the time you ordered pizza or whatever you were going to eat it would be 12:30 of 1:00 a.m. in the morning. Then you'd get three hours of sleep. Then the plane might not get to your destination until 10:00 a.m. You'd take another three hour nap then would leave for the ball park again for practice and stuff. Doing that for 140 games was tough.

Q: How was life in Nashville?

A: That is a beautiful city. We lived in the outskirts and loved it. Oh yes, and the umpires were better at Triple A I think. They were more consistent. The trainers were better. Everything was a step up. It was all different. The guys at Double A who used to swing at a curve in the dirt with an 0-2 count (no balls-two strikes) were a thing of the past. At Triple A they'd laugh and wait.

Q: Did you meet Todd Haney who played at Panola too?

A: Yes. He was with the Iowa Cubs. I played golf with him a number of times. We got to be pretty good friends before he got called up to the Big Leagues by the Cubs. He hit a home run for them. He's a very good hitter. The first game I pitched against him I think he went two for three. Later I joked to him that the next time he'd have to strike out for me. So the next time I struck him out with the bases loaded. He told me then I owed him. In that at bat he fouled off one pitch that went straight back, and if he'd hit it fair would have gone 100 miles. He was 29 then and is another case of where in Triple A you get to meet a lot of people with maturity and a lot of playing experience. They really understand the game of baseball and you learn from them. Being only 23 I could learn much from them. It was a growing and learning opportunity for me. I should make a good coach someday. I learned more in my season at Triple A than I'd learned in all my other seasons if you put them all together.

You also learn of "the courtesy of the game." That's a way of saying what is accepted behavior among real professionals during the course of the game. That is, you don't steal late in the game against a team if you're leading by five runs or more.

I learned you get your outs with the fast ball not with your breaking pitch or your change -up. One of the best games I had I couldn't even throw my curve for a strike . That went for my change-up as well. I think I threw 108 pitches and 93 of them were fast balls. And I threw a complete game. That was the third to last game I pitched in. I didn't have a curve ball that might, and I didn't have a change-up. But I threw one of my best games.

Q: Are you meaner on the mound than you were before? Will you try to get a batter to move back from the plate?

A: Yes I do that. Guys learn their hitting zones. That is where they can hit the ball the best as it gets to the plate. I can see that now by the way a batter swings. I've learned by the way guys foul balls off whether they're on or not, and that helps on where to throw the next pitch. If a guy hits it straight up and it goes foul, then the guy missed from just hitting the ball well. If he'd hit the ball just a fraction away on the bat, the ball would have gone a million miles. I've learned to read that. If you see a guy's butt fly toward the third base dugout, and he's a right hand hitter, and his bat sticks out by first base, and it's a breaking ball, he can't hit a breaking ball. And you can throw another one. He's never going to get a good swing at it. He may swing, but he's not going to get a good swing.

Q: So you went to Florida for rehab. How is it going?

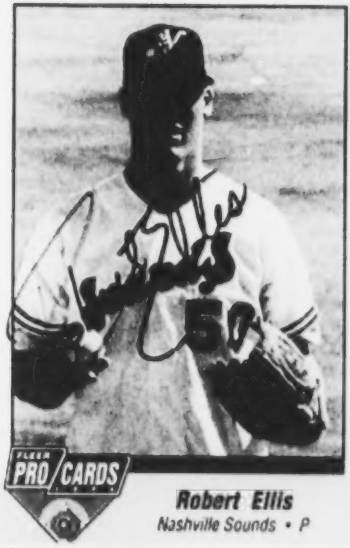
A: I went to Florida. One person I met there was Paul Azinger, the professional golfer at a BSF (Bible study fellowship) meeting. We met every Monday. He was pulled out of a tournament in September or October with a sore shoulder or back. We have a BSF group of 150 men, and we break off into groups of 10 to 12. He was in my group. It was awesome to meet him, along with Bo Jackson and Michael Jordan before. He gave me the watch I'm wearing. I told him after he pulled out of a tournament that he needed to come to our weight room and workout with us. I told him we had some exercises that were just unbelievable and would help his shoulder and lower back. He had had cancer in his shoulder before you know. He came and he worked out. He loved it and came all the time. He was able to play in the he Skins Tournament with Fred Couples and Tom Watson and Payne Stewart. Paul missed a four foot putt there and the chance for $130,000. At the tournament he thanked the White Sox for allowing him to work out. I told him he should have mentioned me and Greg instead.

I've also played ping pong with him. He's a real competitor. That's good for me too. Also he came back from his bout with cancer, and that's also inspired me. He's never let the illness be an excuse.

Q: Do you go back to Florida again in January?

A: I'll leave January third to continue the rehab. That will go to the first day of Spring Training. I'll be ready to go. I hope the owners are. The surgery, if it had to be, happened at a good time. No matter how good I was doing in 1994, I was not going to the Big Leagues at the end of the season in the September call-up. And with the strike going in meant a down time. So if this was the time then I didn't miss as much as I might have. This was the year that's not going to hurt you. Looking ahead to 1995, I'll be ready. I think they'll limit my pitch count per game until June or so. It will be a year of getting things back to normal. Actually I'd like to go to Nashville as a starter to get my innings in. However, I do think I can make the White Sox staff this year because of the openings on their pitching staff. There are two openings for starters, plus four spots in the bullpen. But I'll be ready for 1995.

Robert Ellis with staff member Nicholas Downing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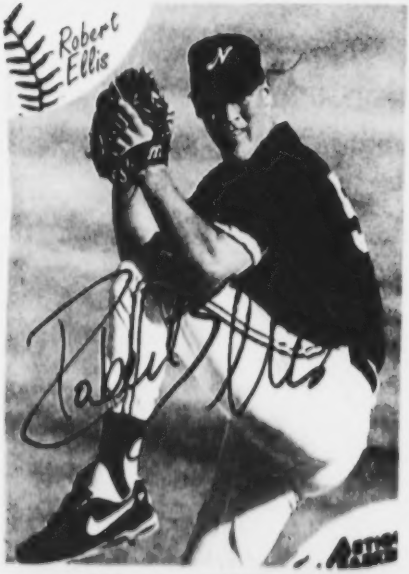
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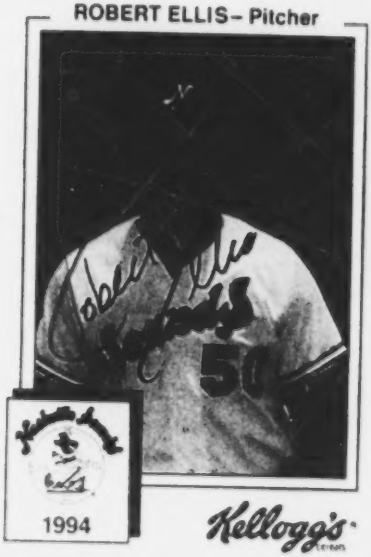
ROBERT ELLIS– Pitcher
1994
Kellogg's

ROBERT ELLIS
NASHVILLE SOUNDS

63

Chester Studdard

We first met Dr. Chester Studdard, retired veterinarian, at the reception for the release of the issue of the Loblolly on Carthage High School baseball. We knew that he had been the All-State shortstop for Carthage in 1941. But in earlier interviews with teammates we had missed the fact that Chester Studdard had played professional baseball as had Jim Reeves, June Graves, and Ralph Allen.

So we journeyed to Gilmer to interview him at his home. He shared the fact of his being the most loyal graduate of Texas A&M. And Chester Studdard also told us how he had then gone on to a long career of a veterinarian.

Q: What year were you born?

A: It was in 1925.

Q: Where?

A: It was just east of DeBerry, Texas.

Q: Did you live in a particular community?

A: Yes, we called it Rainbow Community.

Q: Did you have lots of sisters and brothers?

A: Well, I'm the oldest. There are three of us. My sister Betty, you saw her in the picture, is five years younger than I am. And my little brother is ten years younger.

Q: Where did you go to school at when you were a youngster?

A: I went to school in DeBerry for seven years. I went to Elysian Fields one year. When I was a freshman in high school, I heard about the baseball team in Carthage. So I transferred there because I liked baseball. That was in 1939.

Q: Well, did you grow up with baseball?

A: When I grew up that was about the only game going on back then. I had never heard of football of course. Basketball, well we started playing basketball when I was in the seventh grade. That was in 1937. That was the first basketball I ever saw.

Q: How did you learn to play baseball?

A: We grew up with baseball. That was the going game back then. We just started playing when I was in grade school. We played softball in grade school first, and then just gradually moved into baseball. It was a natural game, just choose up and play.

Carthage High School Greats: Chester Studdard All State Shortstop - 1941 and Tim Harkrider All State Shortstop - 1990

Q: Did anybody in particular teach you how to play?

A: Oh no, we all learned it about the same time. Jim Reeves was two years older than I was, and I don't know how he managed to graduate at the same time I did. Well, he did lay out of school one year. I think it was when he was in grade school to help his parents on the farm. You know how that goes. He taught me a lot about baseball, but I mainly learned it naturally. You just start playing and you pick it up.

Q: He lived in DeBerry too?

A: Yea, he lived out of DeBerry on the Elysian Fields highway.

Q: When you played baseball were you on the varsity team?

A: Yes, I played varsity every year, my sophomore year right on through my senior year.

Q: Who was your coach?

A: E.B. Morrison

Q: About how old was he?

A: I don't know. I thought he was old when I was playing for him.

Q: He is 87 now?

A: Yes, he is 87 now. He was the only high school coach I ever had. He stayed with us until the war got him. I think he joined to army while at the state baseball tournament in Dallas. He was supposed to leave before the tournament, but he talked them into letting him stay and coach us through the state tournament.

Q: What did you learn about baseball from him?

A: Well, to tell you the truth, I don't know if E.B. ever played baseball or not. But he knew the fundamentals of baseball. He didn't teach us much about the technique and all of that. We just basically knew it from grade school you

know. We just gradually progressed until we were pretty good ballplayers.

Q: You must have been pretty good yourself?

A: Well, I made All State my junior year by the way. That was the year Sunset High School beat us in Dallas. It would be like a 5-A school playing a school like Gary. That's how much difference there was. We came just a hair from winning the State Championship both years in 1941 and 1942.

Q: Who beat you in 1942?

A: Adamson High School beat us in 1942, and they were also like a 5-A school. We were something like a 3-A. Well, I don't know if they were classified back then. But they were much larger than Carthage was.

Q: Who were the team leaders that lead the Carthage team?

A: Well, in the game we beat the University of Texas freshman baseball team in the Spring of 1942, Jim Reeves pitched a three hitter. We beat them 3-1 and I noticed I was batting clean-up. Oh, and by the way, when I made All State the sports writers picked us up from the State Tournament. They picked me as shortstop and Jim Reeves and June Graves as pitchers.

In the first game in the 1941 State Tournament we played the defending State Champions from Hondo in South Texas. They had an all state pitcher named Clint Hartung, and he pitched against us in the first game. We were the underdogs of the tournament. We were unknown, and we beat them. I forgot what the scores were, but we knocked him out of the box in about the third

inning. We got him right away. I got three hits off of him, and I think that's one reason they picked me. I played flawlessly in the field, and in the second game against, I believe McKinney, I got one hit in two trips to bat. In the third game, the championship game against Sunset, I got one hit in three times at bat. So I had five for nine at bat, and that's over a .500 batting average. And that's probably the reason I made All State.

Q: What was the game against the University of Texas like?

A: It's hard to remember something 50 years ago, but we played at their home field in Austin. We beat them 3-1 and I must have played pretty well. Jim Reeves pitched that three hitter against them. After the game, the Texas coach called us over and said, " I want you to come to Texas, and I will give you a full baseball scholarship." So from that game we got scholarships to Texas, a full four year scholarship. And then the war came along, and that short changed us.

Q: Did you get to go to Texas at all?

A: No, well we went to sign up and actually we went to sign up in the Summer of 1942 on August 15. Jim Reeves and I rode a bus to Austin and we went to the U.T. campus. We went up to the Registration Office and actually enrolled. The receptionist said, "Well we can't give you all a scholarship until this Fall. We don't give scholarships in the Summer." Well, we were going to go to the second six weeks in the Summer school. She said, "You all go and get you a little job and we will pick you up in the Fall." Well, we couldn't find a job so we went to Houston, and Jim got a job there. I came on home. And then both of us got drafted into World War II.

Q: What did you serve in?

A: I was in the Navy, in Aviation Ordnance. I was in the Navy for two years.

Q: Where did you serve?

A: I had boot training in San Diego, advanced training in Norman, Oklahoma, and Norfolk, Virginia, and I got discharged in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Q: You never went overseas?

A: No, I never went overseas. Every class that graduated before us at Norfolk went to the Pacific. I had already written my mother that I was going to the South Pacific. Well, when I graduated they sent us to Corpus Christi. Of course that tickled all of us Texas boys. You know, it felt like we were back home since we were in Texas.

Q: What did you do after you got out of the service?

A: I was discharged on October 30, 1945. It was too late to register at Texas A&M for the Fall semester. I had made up my mind to be a veterinarian. So I enrolled at A&M on February 4, 1946.

Q: What made you want to be a vet?

A: Two of my cousins were already at A&M and in pre-vet, and they kind of talked me into it.

Q: How long did you go to A&M?

A: Five years.

Q: How did you fit baseball and college in all together?

A: Vet-students didn't go to summer school because we couldn't make up any ground anyway. So between my sophomore and my junior years at A&M I played professional baseball for Clarksdale, Mississippi in the Cotton States League. You may have heard of that, but that was Class C ball. And the reason I got the invitation to play there was a sports writer for the Panola Watchman saw me play ball. He knew the manager at Clarksdale, and he called them and told them he might have someone that could fit into his team. So the manager said, "Send him on down." So I went down and joined the team right away. Of course I had already got out of A&M because it was summer time. This was in 1949.

Q: Did you play baseball at A&M?

A: Well, I'll tell you about that later. But I played in the summer of 1949 in the Cotton States League. The next summer I got my transfer to play at Bryan, Texas which is right next to A&M. That was in the East Texas League which was also Class C ball. After school was out I got my contract transferred to Tyler, and that's where I finished the Summer of 1950 between my junior and senior years.

Q: Did any team you played for tie in with a Major League team?

A: The team in the Cotton States League was a Brooklyn Dodgers farm team. None of the teams in the East Texas League had Major League affiliations. It was made up of independent owned teams.

Q: How did you do as a professional player?

Chester Studdard - 1950

A: I had always wanted to play professional baseball. And when they asked me while I was still a student at Carthage High School what my ambition in life was, I said it was to play pro ball. So when I got the chance to play at

Clarksdale, I jumped on it. Then the chance came to play in Tyler and I was still interested in baseball. I couldn't think of anything else I wanted to do, so I played in those two summers.

Q: How did you perform?

A: I don't know how to answer that. Well, I played the whole time so I guess I played pretty well. I made the team.

Q: Did you hit pretty well?

A: Yea, I hit pretty well. I hit a few home runs. I think in Tyler I had something like between 30-35 doubles that summer and 10-12 home runs.

But anyway, I was going to tell you this story. You may not want to put this in. It was in the summer of 1950. I was at Texas A&M and I was playing pro ball for Bryan, Texas. Texas A&M had an All-American pitcher named Pat Hubert, and he was a pre-vet student like I was. He was pitching for the Aggies. He came to my room one night and said, "Are you playing ball for Bryan?" And I said, "Yes." Then he said, "We've got an exhibition game with you in a couple of weeks and I am going to strike you out every time you come up to bat." And I replied, "We will wait and see." It turned out that we {Bryan} beat them 9-8, and I got two doubles off of the All-American pitcher Pat Hubert. About a week later we played another exhibition game at our home park in Bryan. Pat didn't pitch that game, but I got two more hits in four times at bat. So I ended up with four for nine against the Aggies. By then some of the Aggie players found out that I was a student at A&M. They came over and asked me why I didn't play for the Aggies. I told them, "I didn't think that I could pass regular medicine and be out of pocket that much running around playing baseball." So I realized that I could have made the Aggie team very easily.

Q: What happened after 1950, no more baseball?

A: No more baseball. Fall was my senior year at vet school. Spring of 1951 was when I graduated from vet school and I went into practice. I practiced one year in Shreveport, Louisiana, and then I went to New Braunfels, Texas for maybe five months. Then I came back to Tyler and practiced for two years before I came to Gilmer and have been here ever since 1954.

Q: When did you retire?

A: I retired in 1987 and sold my practice.

Q: Are you still active in sports?

A: Yes, I'm still running for the Dallas Masters Track and Field Club. I also run about three or four miles, two or three times a week. I love that. I play golf all of the time, that's my love right now. I love golf almost as much as baseball.

Q: Tell us about you and your family?

A: My wife and I have two sons and eight grandchildren. My youngest son lives in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and is a Minister of Music. They have four daughters. My oldest son lives here in Gilmer. They have four sons. He works for Upshur Rural Electric. I'll be 70 in August and I still feel like I could play baseball tomorrow.

Q: Can we go back and talk about Jim Reeves?

A: He was a wiry type fellow, and had very long fingers. He had a curve ball that you wouldn't believe. He started that curve ball on right handed batters that came right at their left ear. They reacted to that, and then the ball would

curve right over the plate. There were a lot of times they wouldn't see it and it would be a strike. They thought it was going to hit them. I don't know how many he struck out in the game against the University of Texas freshman. Ralph Allen, our old Carthage teammate, was playing for Texas at first base as a "walk-on" (no scholarship). I think the rest of their team was made up of All-State players. I don't know why he didn't make All-State too. They got four hits off of Jim Reeves that day and Ralph got two of them.

Q: What kind of pitcher was June Graves?

A: June Graves didn't have the curve ball that Travis (Jim) Reeves had, but his fast ball would walk and talk. He was built just perfect for a pitcher. He was maybe 6'3" and weighed about 200 pounds. He could really throw the ball. He pitched a no-hit game in the State Tournament, mostly fast balls. He used his curve ball more or less for a change-up just to keep them off balance.

Q: All three of you (Studdard, Reeves, and Graves) made All-State in 1941 for Carthage?

A: Yes all three of us did.

Q: You have done some exciting things?

A: Yes, I'm proud of my past. There have been a lot of great experiences.

And I well remember Coach Morrison. E.B. had a knack for getting along with all his players. There was never any dissension on the team. He knew the game, he understood people, and he could recognize talent too. I also played American Legion ball for him. In 1940 we went to Austin for their State Tournament and got to the finals.

We had some good baseball players in Carthage in the late 1930's and early 1940's. I forgot to mention something from that game when we beat the University of Texas freshman. I believe that five of the nine players on the Carthage team were from DeBerry. That's where we started playing sandlot ball together. We also played one year in a Knot-Hole League in Shreveport. I think that was 1939, maybe 1938. We had a team called the Bethany Bouncers. I think we beat everybody in the Shreveport League. Mr. Peters who owned the Shreveport team in the Double A Texas League sponsored the Knot-Holers. He let us in to watch the Texas League games for little or no admission price. We watched some good baseball too.

Chester Studdard with Beth Hazelwood and Nicholas Downing of *Loblolly*

Sheriff Corbett Akins

Leroy DeLoney and Friend